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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,967	08/21/2003	David A. Matthews	MFCP.107183	7579
45809	7590	12/21/2006	EXAMINER	
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P. (c/o MICROSOFT CORPORATION) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 2555 GRAND BOULEVARD KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-2613			TRAN, TUYETLIEN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS	12/21/2006		PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,967	MATTHEWS ET AL.	
	Examiner TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran	Art Unit 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/22/05</u>	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The examiner has considered the documents listed in forms PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) received on 02/2/2005 (see the attached forms PTO-1449).

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: "computer readable medium" as disclose in claims 13 and 24.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 13 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter "computer readable medium" which was not described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claims 13, 24-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In claims 13 and 24, a "computer readable medium" is being recited. In addition, no definition for "computer readable medium" is provided in the specification; however, one of ordinary skill in the art can interpret the medium in its broadest reasonable sense as covering transmission signal. Transmission signal is non-statutory subject matter.

In claims 25 and 31, a "system" is being recited; however, it appears that the system would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art as software, per se.

Any claim not specifically addressed, above, is being rejected as incorporating the deficiencies of a claim upon which it depends.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

8. Claims 1-5, 8-17, 20-28, 30-34, and 36 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Desktop Sidebar v. 1.03 (printed web pages from desktopsidebar, published on 08/03/2003 pages 1-4; hereinafter sidebar103).

As to claim 1, sidebar103 teaches:

A method in a computing system for providing a user interaction scheme (e.g., Desktop Sidebar v.1.03, see page 1) comprising:

minimizing an application upon receiving a minimize command (e.g., minimized Windows Media Player, see page 2 paragraph 10);
revealing a tile to represent the minimized application (e.g., Media Player panel);
and

providing access to selected application features through the tile (e.g., allows you to control Windows Media Player through panel, see page 2 paragraph 10).

As to claim 14, sidebar103 teaches:

A method in a computing system for providing a user interaction scheme through the use of a sidebar (e.g., Desktop Sidebar v.1.03, see page 1), comprising:

moving an application to the sidebar upon receipt of a user command to minimize the application (e.g., minimized Windows Media Player, see page 2 paragraph 10); and
providing access to at least a sub-set of features belonging to the application from the minimized application in the sidebar (e.g., allows you to control Windows Media Player through panel, see page 2 paragraph 10).

As to claim 25, sidebar103 teaches:

A system for providing user access to a variety of informational items (e.g., Desktop Sidebar v.1.03, see page 1), the system comprising:

a sidebar for hosting a plurality of tiles (e.g., sidebar that contains a plurality of panels, see page 2 paragraphs 4 and 5);

at least one application including an insertion module for inserting a tile into the sidebar (e.g., panels are freely arranged, added, removed, moved, and grouped, see page 1 paragraph 6), wherein selected features of the application remain available through the tile when the application is represented by a tile in the sidebar (e.g., see page 2 paragraph 10); and

user interface tools for allowing a user to command placement of a selected application into the sidebar (e.g., panels can be added or moved, see page 1 paragraph 6).

As to claim 31, sidebar103 teaches:

A system for providing access to a minimized application through a user interface (e.g., Desktop Sidebar v.1.03, see page 1), the system comprising:

an available feature selection module for allowing an application to provide selected features including at least a sub-set of a full feature set upon minimization (e.g., see page 2 paragraph 10); and

a tile insertion module for revealing a tile and for providing access to the selected features (e.g., see page 1, 'Mail Checker Window' image).

As to claim 2, sidebar103 further teaches wherein the selected application features include a sub-set of the original application features (e.g., see page 2 paragraph 10).

As to claim 3, sidebar103 further teaches wherein the selected application features include all of the original application features (e.g., mail checker window, see page 1, 'Mail Checker Window' image).

As to claims 4 and 15, sidebar103 teaches further comprising providing access to additional features not available in the application (e.g., see page 2 paragraphs 14-15).

As to claims 5 and 17, sidebar103 teaches further comprising hiding an application window upon receiving the minimize command (e.g., hiding Windows Media Player, see page 2 paragraph 10).

As to claim 8, sidebar103 teaches further comprising revealing the tile in a sidebar (e.g., revealing information about playing media, see page 2 paragraph 10).

As to claims 9, 20, 30, and 36, sidebar103 teaches comprising providing access to the sub-set of application features through a fly-out menu accessible through the tile (e.g., see page 1, 'Mail Checker Window' image).

As to claims 10, 21, 26 and 33, sidebar103 teaches comprising providing the user with a restore button accessible through the tile to allow the user to maximize the application (e.g., allowing to restore weather page, see screenshot of Weather Panel on page 3 and better version on page 4).

As to claims 11, 22 and 27, sidebar103 teaches further comprising providing an available features selection module for allowing the application to select features available through the tile (e.g., see page 2 paragraph 10).

As to claims 12 and 23, sidebar103 teaches further comprising allowing the user to determine a size of the tile (e.g., see page 1 paragraph 6).

As to claims 13 and 24, sidebar103 further teaches a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1 and claim 12 (e.g., desktop sidebar is installed on a desktop).

As to claim 16, sidebar103 teaches further comprising inserting a tile in the sidebar for providing access to the application (e.g., panels can be added or moved, see page 1 paragraph 6).

As to claims 28 and 34, sidebar103 teaches further comprising special controls for allowing removal of the application from the sidebar (e.g., panels can be removed, see page 1 paragraph 6).

As to claim 32, sidebar103 teaches a sidebar for hosting the tile within the user interface (e.g., sidebar that contains a plurality of panels, see page 2 paragraphs 4 and 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 13-17, 20-22, 24-28, 30-34, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amro et al (Patent No. US 6335745 B1; hereinafter Amro).

As to claim 1, Amro teaches:

A method in a computing system for providing a user interaction scheme (e.g., see Fig. 6) comprising:
minimizing an application upon receiving a minimize command (e.g., minimized application A and B as shown in Fig. 5);
revealing a tile to represent the minimized application (e.g., 'Application A' tile in Fig. 5); and

providing access to selected application features through the tile (e.g., providing access to application A's menu bar and toolbar, see Fig. 6).

As to claim 14, Amro teaches:

A method in a computing system for providing a user interaction scheme through the use of a sidebar (e.g., see Fig. 6; note that active application bar 106 in Fig. 4 is interpreted as sidebar), comprising:

moving an application to the sidebar upon receipt of a user command to minimize the application (e.g., Application A is moved to active application bar 106 as shown in Fig. 5); and

providing access to at least a sub-set of features belonging to the application from the minimized application in the sidebar (e.g., providing access to application A's menu bar and toolbar, see Fig. 6).

As to claim 25, Amro teaches:

A system for providing user access to a variety of informational items (e.g., see Fig. 6), the system comprising:

- a sidebar for hosting a plurality of tiles (e.g., active application bar 106 in Fig. 5);
- at least one application including an insertion module for inserting a tile into the sidebar (e.g., inserting 'Application A' into the bar 106, see Fig. 6), wherein selected features of the application remain available through the tile when the application is represented by a tile in the sidebar (e.g., application A's menu are and toolbar are available by a slide up tile, see Fig. 6); and

- user interface tools for allowing a user to command placement of a selected application into the sidebar (e.g., clicking one of the buttons 120, 122, 124, see Fig. 4).

As to claim 31, Amro teaches:

A system for providing access to a minimized application through a user interface, the system (e.g., see Fig. 6) comprising:

- an available feature selection module for allowing an application to provide selected features including at least a sub-set of a full feature set upon minimization (e.g., providing access to application A's menu bar and toolbar, see Fig. 6); and

a tile insertion module for revealing a tile and for providing access to the selected features (e.g., see Fig. 4).

As to claim 2, Amro further teaches wherein the selected application features include a sub-set of the original application features (e.g., see Application's A menu bar and toolbar in Fig. 6).

As to claim 3, Amro further teaches wherein the selected application features include all of the original application features (e.g., a user can access to all features of application A by clicking on the tile 'Application A', see Fig. 4).

As to claims 4 and 15, Amro teaches further comprising providing access to additional features not available in the application (e.g., providing access to features on Application B, see Fig. 6).

As to claims 5 and 17, Amro teaches further comprising hiding an application window upon receiving the minimize command (e.g., hiding windows application A and B, see Fig. 5).

As to claim 8, Amro teaches further comprising revealing the tile in a sidebar (e.g., revealing information about Application A's menu bar and toolbar, see Fig. 6).

As to claims 9, 20, 30, and 36, Amro teaches comprising providing access to the sub-set of application features through a fly-out menu accessible through the tile (e.g., see Fig. 6).

As to claims 10, 21, 26 and 33, Amro teaches comprising providing the user with a restore button accessible through the tile to allow the user to maximize the application (e.g., see col. 7 lines 1-15 and step 206 in Fig. 8).

As to claims 11, 22 and 27, Amro teaches further comprising providing an available features selection module for allowing the application to select features available through the tile (e.g., a user can select a button from Application A's menu bar or toolbar, see Fig. 6).

As to claims 13 and 24, Amro further teaches a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1 and claim 12 (e.g., see col. 9 lines 59-67).

As to claim 16, Amro teaches further comprising inserting a tile in the sidebar for providing access to the application (e.g., see Fig. 6).

As to claims 28 and 34, Amro teaches further comprising special controls for allowing removal of the application from the sidebar (e.g., see col. 5 lines 62-67 – col. 6 lines 1-3).

As to claim 32, Amro teaches a sidebar for hosting the tile within the user interface (e.g., active application bar 106 having application A-B tiles in Fig. 5).

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over sidebar103 in view of Oran et al (Patent No 5757371, hereinafter Oran).

As to claims 6 and 18, sidebar103 teaches the limitation of claims 1 and 14 for the reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1 and 14 above. However, sidebar103 fails to expressly teach hiding taskbar. Oran, though, teaches hiding the taskbar application button (e.g., see checkbox for Auto Hide taskbar, see Fig. 15A).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of sidebar103 and Oran before him at the time the invention was made to have combined the two teachings together to automatically hide the taskbar application button upon receiving the minimized command for the purpose of providing more space for display area.

13. Claims 7 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over sidebar103 in view of Kramer et al (Patent No US 6738810 B1, hereinafter Kramer).

As to claims 7 and 19, sidebar103 teaches the limitation of claims 1 and 14 for the reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1 and 14 above. However, sidebar103 fails to

expressly teach hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application. Kramer, though, teaches hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application (e.g., see col. 7 lines 19-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of sidebar103 and Kramer before him at the time the invention was made to have combined the two teachings together to automatically hide the alt-tab entry associated with the application upon receiving the minimized command because features associated with the application is now available through the tile in the sidebar; therefore, disabling or hiding the alt-tab entry would save memory and thus speed up processing time.

14. Claims 29 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over sidebar103 in view of Oran further in view of Kramer.

As to claims 29 and 35, sidebar103 teaches the limitation of claims 25 and 31 for the reasons as discussed with respect to claims 25 and 31 above. Sidebar103 further teaches hiding an application window upon receiving the minimize command (e.g., hiding Windows Media Player, see page 2 paragraph 10). However, sidebar103 fails to expressly teach hiding taskbar. Oran, though, teaches hiding the taskbar application button (e.g., see checkbox for Auto Hide taskbar, see Fig. 15A). Thus, combining sidebar103 and Oran would meet the limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 6 and 18 above. Sidebar103 and Oran still do not teach hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application. Kramer, though, teaches hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application (e.g., see col. 7 lines 19-36). Thus, combining sidebar103, Oran, and Kramer

would meet the limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 7 and 19 above.

15. Claims 6, 12, 18, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amro in view of Oran.

As to claims 6 and 18, Amro teaches the limitation of claims 1 and 14 for the reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1 and 14 above. However, Amro fails to expressly teach hiding taskbar. Oran, though, teaches hiding the taskbar application button (e.g., see checkbox for Auto Hide taskbar, see Fig. 15A).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Amro and Oran before him at the time the invention was made to have combined the two teachings together to automatically hide the taskbar application button upon receiving the minimized command for the purpose of providing more space for display area.

As to claims 12 and 23, Amro teaches the limitation of claims 2 and 16 for the reasons as discussed with respect to claims 2 and 16 above. However, Amro fails to expressly teach allowing the user to determine a size of the tile. Oran, though, teaches allowing the user to determine a size of the tile (e.g., see Fig. 10A). Thus, combining Amro and Oran would meet the limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 6 and 18 above.

16. Claims 7 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amro in view of Kramer et al (Patent No US 6738810 B1, hereinafter Kramer).

As to claims 7 and 19, Amro teaches the limitation of claims 1 and 14 for the reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1 and 14 above. However, Amro fails to expressly teach hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application. Kramer, though, teaches hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application (e.g., see col. 7 lines 19-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Amro and Kramer before him at the time the invention was made to have combined the two teachings together to automatically hide the alt-tab entry associated with the application upon receiving the minimized command because features associated with the application is now available through the tile in the sidebar; therefore, disabling or hiding the alt-tab entry would save memory and thus speed up processing time.

17. Claims 29 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amro in view of Oran further in view of Kramer.

As to claims 29 and 35, Amro teaches the limitation of claims 25 and 31 for the reasons as discussed with respect to claims 25 and 31 above. Amro further teaches hiding an application window upon receiving the minimize command (e.g., hiding windows application A and B, see Fig. 5). However, Amro fails to expressly teach hiding taskbar. Oran, though, teaches hiding the taskbar application button (e.g., see checkbox for Auto Hide taskbar, see Fig. 15A). Thus, combining Amro and Oran would meet the limitations for

the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 6 and 18 above. Amro and Oran still do not teach hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application. Kramer, though, teaches hiding an alt-tab entry associated with the application (e.g., see col. 7 lines 19-36). Thus, combining Amro, Oran, and Kramer would meet the limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 7 and 19 above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action.

Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns, line numbers, and figures in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teaching of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-270-1033. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday: 7:30 - 5:00, off on alternating Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T.T
12/12/2006

Lien Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2179

BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER